

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned application.

1. (original) A process for manufacturing a toothbrush comprising:

a) providing a toothbrush mold having a head portion, a base portion, a toothbrush cavity located between said head portion and said base portion and having walls, an injection port for injecting molten plastic, and a gas injection port for injection at least one gas, wherein the gas injection port is positioned in the end of the base portion of the mold so that gas is injected into the mold cavity substantially centrally thereof and in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the mold;

b) injecting a predetermined amount of a molten plastic into the mold cavity to partially fill the cavity; and

c) injecting said at least one gas through the gas injection port to direct the molten plastic into contact with the walls of the mold cavity.

2-10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) An apparatus for manufacturing a toothbrush, comprising:

(a) a toothbrush mold having a head portion, a base portion, a toothbrush cavity located between said head portion and said base portion and having walls,

(b) an injection port for injecting molten plastic into said mold, said injection port for injecting molten plastic being positioned in the center of the end of the base portion of the mold ; and

(c) a gas injection port for injecting at least one gas into said mold, said gas

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injection port being positioned in the end of the base portion of the mold so that gas may be injected into the mold cavity substantially centrally thereof and in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the mold.

12. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said injection port for injecting molten plastic into the mold is located concentrically around said injection port for injecting said at least one gas.